GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3806
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
VRS TO LABOURERS
Masood Shri Rasheed

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Labourers working under different departments of Steel Ministry/PSU were offered VRS in 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain outstanding amount in respect of some labourers offered VRS in 1998-99 has not been paid so far; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said outstanding dues are likely to be paid?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS)

(a)&(b): There are no departments under the Ministry of Steel. However, the details in respect of Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Steel are as follows:

STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD. (SAIL)

In VRS-1998, introduced in SAIL w.e.f. 1.3.1998 till 31.8.1998, a total number of 5975 employees were offered/took voluntary retirement (658 Executives and 5317 Non-Executives) and in VRS-1999, introduced w.e.f. 1.6.99 till 31.10.1999, a total number of 13617 employees were separated (2011 Executives and 11606 Non-Executives).

In case of IISCO which was a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) in 1998 and 1999, 260 number of Non-Executive employees have taken voluntary retirement (VR) during the period.

BHARAT REFRACTORIES LIMITED(BRL)

VRS scheme was in operation in BRL and 7 employees opted for voluntary retirement in the year 1998-99

SPONG IRON INDIA LIMITED(SIIL)

A total number of 27 workers including 9 Executives and 18 Non-Executives opted for voluntary retirement in the year 1998-99.

HINDUSTAN STEEL WORKS CONSTRUCTION LIMITED(HSCL)

A total number of 407 employees including 70 Executives, 43 Non-Executives and 294 workers of HSCL opted voluntary retirement in 1998-99.

(c)&(d) During the year 1998/1999, SAIL was operating Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) on deferred payment basis where VR compensation amount was paid on monthly/quarterly basis. Only in Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), there are a few cases where after the death of the employee, nominees could not file the claims after obtaining succession certificate, therefore claims could not be settled. In DSP there are some other cases also where payments have not been released as ex-employees have not vacated Company's accommodation or the injunction from the Court has been obtained by a party in dispute for the claim. In Ispat Limestone Quarry, Satna only in a few cases dues on account of gratuity and leave encashment of the employees arising out of 1997 wage/salary revision, which was made effective in July, 2004 could not be released due to non-submission of claims by the employees. However, the payments are released as soon as, the stipulated requirements are fulfilled by the employee concerned. In all other cases, payment has already been made.

As regards the other PSUs viz., BRL, SIIL and HSCL no outstanding claim is pending with the companies in respect of the employees who had opted for voluntary retirement in 1998-99.